

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In previous amendments, claims 1-7 were cancelled. In the present response, claims 8-9, 12-15 and 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 11 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and therefore, it is submitted that this amendment to claim 11 has not narrowed the scope of protection provided by claim 11, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Consequently, claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 are currently pending and under consideration.

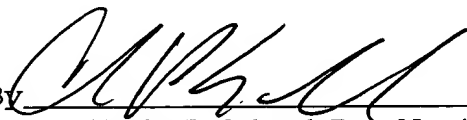
The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 were allowable. Since these claims are the only ones presently pending, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

As a minor housekeeping matter, it should be noted that a copy of the WO 98/19159 to Douglas et al. reference, which was cited in the July 1, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), was provided on February 24, 2003. Although this reference was mentioned in the Office Action, the Applicants' representative has not yet received a PTO-892 form citing the reference or a copy of the February 24, 2003 IDS citation form with the Examiner's initials placed by the reference. It should be noted that a Supplemental IDS has been submitted with this response. For the Examiner's convenience, the WO 98/19159 reference has been again listed on the supplemental IDS form. It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of this IDS be returned in the next communication from the Patent Office.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY 
Charles P. Schmal, Reg. No. 45,082
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett &
Henry LLP
Bank One Center/Tower
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456